

Two Suppers and the Rider on a White Horse

Revelation 19

MPS Jesus is coming again soon to conquer and rule; where our faith rests will be revealed by how we adorn our lives in His righteousness to live ready now.

OBJ Every person should trust in Jesus because of Four Understandings to adorn our lives by God's righteous rule and live ready now.

INTRO **Story of life celebration** The first year Christin and I were married was a year of adjustment for both of us because of our holiday celebrations. I went to Thanksgiving with her family where 7 or 8 shared a meal. She went to Christmas with my family where 40+ people invade like a plague of locusts. Admittedly, it can be a bit overwhelming. But that's how we rolled. There was one common factor at both. Her grandfather always read Psalm 100 before the Thanksgiving meal, and my family always read Luke 2 before opening gifts. Our families were quite different in many ways, but the center of our celebrations was the same. Throughout the years as we've created our own traditions, we've had to decide what and how we would celebrate as a family. Our desire was to make sure all our celebrations became a time to teach and model for our children how Jesus was Lord of our home. **The way we celebrate determines how we adorn our lives with Christ in this world, and what we believe about our eternal hope in Him. Have you ever considered how the celebrations of life define you? What is worthy of your time, energy, and resource to show and multiply your joy and gladness?**

TRANS Today we begin the final chapters of Revelation. These chapters reveal Jesus' victorious Second Coming as we see a party of rejoicing in God's final victory(19), a people who rule with Christ(20), a place of perfection created for eternity with our Triune God(21), and a provision made for eternal life(22). We begin with a party of two suppers that lead us to a question of stark contrast to determine which party each of us will attend.

Jesus is coming again soon to conquer and rule; where our faith rests will be revealed by how we adorn our lives in His righteousness to live ready now.

OBJ **Four Understandings to adorn our lives by God's righteous rule and live ready now.**

19:1-5 Celebration over God's Final Judgment

After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, ²for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants."

³Once more they cried out, Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever."

⁴And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!" ⁵And from the throne came a voice saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great."

Chapter 19 begins with the response to God's destruction of Babylon. Babylon represented Rome to First Century readers, but included the worldly powers that align with the dragon and beast. A great celebration begins in heaven of the multitude crying out, "*Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God*". "The multitude praises God because the destruction of the wicked city is absolutely final."¹ This multitude is the church triumphant, from Revelation 7:9, who declare God's praises for His judgment of the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and because of the blood of the servants. All the elders and four living creatures join in worship, and a voice from heaven's throne calls for praise from all God's servants. This is not a celebration of suffering, but their praise is lifted because God's judgment is true and just. **God has vindicated His holiness and answered the prayers of the saints of heaven's altar.**

¹ Robert H. Mounce, [The Book of Revelation](#), The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1997), 343.



Celebrating true justice is not about revenge but rejoicing in true justice. Proverbs 21:15 states, “*When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers.*” Justice manifests God’s righteousness against wickedness and immorality to demonstrate His glory. [When God’s righteousness is manifested all God’s people rejoice because He is rightly established as worthy as His glory is revealed.](#)

Understanding #1: [Celebrations define our lives to determine where our hope and faith ultimately rests.](#)

APPL [Have you considered the celebrations that define your life?](#) What we celebrate reveals much about our heart and where our hope lies. How we celebrate is also revealed when that which holds our hope is destroyed or defeated, it can be crushing. I’m not talking about simple disappointment. Working hard toward a goal and not reaching it can yield disappointment, and this is understandable. Disappointment can indicate hope destroyed, for sure, but is also a normal and healthy response when it passes without altering one’s view of self, God, others, or the world. Disappointment even proves beneficial when it serves to teach us about life and motivate toward greater things in life. But failure that destroys or crushes reveals that our heart held an idol that was not worthy or our trust and could not sustain our hope. Failure in life has a way of revealing the idols of our heart. We can know failure occurs when a defeat, in any of its varied forms, causes us to question God, de-value self, despise others, or to grow bitter and cynical about the world. When this happens, we can know that an idolatry has been exposed in us. We celebrated the wrong things by wrongly valuing what was unworthy, instead of honoring Jesus Christ and trusting Him in all things. And that which reveals the idols of the heart like failure is success. When success and the things we celebrate produce in us greater self-dependence absent of gratitude for God, it is even more destructive for our heart than failure, because it causes us to believe we have less or no need for God.

[“How does this matter for this passage in Revelation?”](#) you ask. The daily celebrations of life reveal for us what we honor with our life. A heightened mercy toward the world that causes us to question God in His righteous judgment reveals a wrong understanding of God, that He owes us but is not worthy to judge us. When we celebrate things that do not align with or celebrate in a way that does not align with God’s righteousness, we join in the deeds of Babylon by valuing worldly pleasure, wisdom, riches, or power, above godliness in our lives. [Babylon and all her allurements and promises are temporary pleasures that are fleeting and doomed to destruction.](#) [The Righteous are so filled by God that they rejoice in His righteousness and refuse to entertain that which is wicked, immoral, or that opposes or rejects Godliness.](#)

[Do the things that create the greatest celebration or disappointment in your heart align with God and His righteousness, or lean to Babylon?](#)

TRANS [What happens once God’s final judgment is done?](#) The greatest celebration of all.

19:6-10 Marriage Supper of the Lamb

⁶Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. ⁷Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; ⁸it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

⁹And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are the true words of God.” ¹⁰Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.” For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Once Babylon is destroyed the marriage supper of the Lamb begins. John hears again what seemed to be “*the voice of a great multitude*”. They cry out and glorify the Lord with “*Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.*” for the beginning of His eternal reign. Their rejoicing culminates in the marriage supper of the Lamb where the Bride has made herself ready. The imagery of a Bride and wedding is familiar throughout the Old and New Testament to reference God’s people joining with Jesus in eternity. The Church has made herself ready by clothing herself in fine linen, bright and pure by the righteous deeds of the saints. This is not a reference to what people have done to earn or achieve salvation. Rather, as the Bible teaches, it demonstrates the genuineness of their conversion by the good deeds that have been produced from



their life. Once reconciled to God, they fully gave their lives to the good deeds that God ordained for them to do in this world. (Ephesians 2:10) Those who adorned their lives with God's good deeds of faith are the ones welcomed to the celebration of the marriage supper. This marriage supper will be more fully described by two other symbols in the last two chapters of Revelation.² Then, the invitation to the marriage supper of the Lamb is so glorious that it becomes a beatitude that adorns the life of a Christ-follower. There is no higher honor for one's whole life than to make the guest list for the marriage supper of the Lamb. The guest list is made by faith in the One who is the bridegroom, Jesus Christ. The angel adds that these true words of God authenticate all the celebration of God's victory over Satan.³ John is so overwhelmed that he falls down to worship the angel. He is immediately rebuked to never worship a fellow servant, but only worship God. Of ALL the beatitudes that define the life of a follower of Jesus Christ, they culminate in this final one; "*Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.*" [The guest list of who is welcomed to the marriage supper of the Lamb is comprised of those who made themselves ready by adorning their lives in God's good deeds by faith.](#)

Understanding #2: How and why we celebrate in this life determines whether we live ready for the great celebration of life.

We expend our lives getting ready for a lot of things in this world, births, every "first", then "lasts", graduations, weddings, jobs, homes, acquisition and loss, the list is endless throughout life. But the real issue is this; "*In all of life is our whole life made ready for the marriage supper of the Lamb by being adorned with the good deeds of faith the Lord Jesus?*" In other words, "*Is Jesus at the center of all my celebrations? Is He the reason I elate with joy and grieve with hope?*" We adorn our life with His good deeds by honoring the Lord Jesus through obedience by faith in all that we do. Christians are a people who experience life like no other. In all our high moments of celebration, we give all glory to God. When we grieve, we are not without hope. Instead of living for self, we live to serve Jesus by serving others. And in all of life we aim to make Jesus known by sharing the gospel so others can hear and come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Everything about life with Jesus becomes a testimony to His grace and goodness in our lives. Though the final victory has not yet been brought in, we live now in the "already, but not yet", knowing that how we adorn our lives now matters for eternity with Jesus Christ. [Christ-followers make our lives ready for the marriage supper of the Lamb by pointing all glory to Jesus in our celebration, and looking only to Him as worthy in all our sorrow.](#)

Do all the celebrations of your life now belong to Jesus? Do you adorn all you do for the glory of His Name now to live ready? Is there any part of your life, whether good or hard, that does not testify to the goodness and grace of God?

19:11-16 The Warrior Messiah rides a White Horse

¹¹Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. ¹²His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. ¹³He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. ¹⁵From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

John sees heaven opened and beholds a white horse. From his first glimpse John sees victory. The rider is known by four names. He is Faithful and True and makes judgments and war in righteousness. He has a name written that no one knows but himself, for He is so glorious and has been exalted to a place above every other. His eyes are like a flame of fire by which he judges with true and perfect wisdom, and is adorned with many crowns, denoting his limitless worthiness to

² Robert H. Mounce, [The Book of Revelation](#), The New International Commentary on the New Testament, 348. Mounce states, "Although the feast is nowhere described, we should understand that the time of blessedness it portrays is presented under different symbolism in the last two chapters of the book."

³ Robert H. Mounce, [The Book of Revelation](#), The New International Commentary on the New Testament, 349. Mounce explains, "At the end of the beatitude the angel adds, 'These are the true words of God.' This authentication should probably not be limited to the beatitude itself but refer as well to the song of the heavenly multitude (vv. 6–8), and even to all that the angel has explained beginning with chapter 17."



rule. He is The Word of God clothed in a robe dipped in blood from his battle who fulfills God's divine purpose. Surrounded all around by the armies of heaven, who in stark contrast to him, are robed in fine linen, white and pure. A sharp sword comes from his mouth to strike down nations, with which he conquers in victory. He treads the winepress of God's wrath, as we saw in the previous chapter, in judgment on his enemies. And on His robe and thigh are written His name, King of Kings and Lord of lords. This is Jesus, unmatched in majesty and regalness, supreme in divine royalty. He rides in victory as the Almighty and warrior victor of supreme battles. He is righteous and true, with perfect knowledge and wisdom to discern all things, and by His Word are all His deeds accomplished. And this – THIS – is the moment of His coming again; the moment many anticipated with all their life and some with their very lives, the moment which held countless saints by eternal hope, and the moment many scoffed and shunned in unbelief. But – here He IS: promised and prophesied in His Word, incarnate in the world, crucified, resurrected, and ascended from the earth, and now fulfilled in His glorified person to crush evil once for all and rule His perfect Kingdom. **The King IS coming again, soon! This is His Word by which His Will is fulfilled. Have you believed upon Him to be saved?**

Understanding #3: Jesus conquers to determine WHO will celebrate true and eternal victory for eternity.

Jesus is the victorious King who returns in victory to gather His people unto Himself. He is not one of many ways, nor even the best of those ways, He is the ONLY Way. Without Jesus every person is dead in sin, separated from God, damned to eternity in the torment of hell. But by Him all who believe to trust and follow are led triumphantly into His eternal glory! Everyone goes IN to the game planning for a victory, but only one walks out victoriously. Confidence is built on many factors; what you know about your skill or team, what you believe about your opponent, and how you approach the game. Some of the greatest teams have walked away in defeat for factors they could not even explain, some of the mightiest armies for reasons no one predicted before the battle. But friend, don't let the confidence of fools deceive you into believing with losers. **No one walks into eternity without Jesus and wins. But all who are with Jesus conquer because He is Almighty victor.**

What are you trusting for eternity; a denial of existence in hell, a presumption of a final, universal cleansing? When you know Jesus will conquer victoriously over Satan and His enemies, why would you ever trust in any other?

19:17-21 The Great Supper of God

¹⁷Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, ¹⁸to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great." ¹⁹And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. ²⁰And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. ²¹And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

Before you even take your seat for the big war, Armeggedon, just like that it is over. Before the war even begins, the angel announcer comes out and begins to summon the clean-up crew. The battlefield will not be the location of the winner's circle but the loser's supper. And all who stand opposed to Jesus will fall one final time here. While the clean-up crew prepares, the armies of earthly empires gather to make war. Like we said, everyone goes in to battle thinking they will win, but only one walks away victorious. And just before the tension of a battle's beginning can build and peak, the beast and false prophet, the generals of Satan's army, are captured and thrown into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. And in an instant, every false idol that deceived and every person who identified with it, was exposed as the defeated foe. And the rest, all who aligned their lives with the beast and the false prophet, were slain by the sword of our King's mouth, and left strewn on the battlefield as vulture gorge. Faster than a Mike Tyson fight, the line at the concession stand has barely moved and the war is over with only one sword unsheathed! **The battle with more anticipation than any other proves to have less fighting and zero conflict than any other, for the Warrior Messiah speaks and the battle will be done.**



Understanding #4: How you prepare in this life determines whether you are on the “guest list” or the “menu”.

Whether you lie on the battlefield as scavenger food or whether you are tuning up in heaven for the big chorus and feast is determined by this one thing; whether you believed in Jesus to repent of your sin and receive Him or whether you aligned your life with the deception of the false prophet. It really is that simple. Preparation for Armeggedon is determined by which side you line up on, whether or not you even show up for, what is billed as the great battle but is really only the ‘final sizzle’. Have you adorned your life with the righteousness of Christ or in the deeds of Babylon?

Jesus is coming again soon to conquer and rule; where our faith rests will be revealed by how we adorn our lives in His righteousness to live ready now.

CLOSE The question of stark contrast to commend us to worship Jesus: Are you on the guest list for the marriage supper of the lamb, or are you on the menu for the great supper of God?”

